

Ground Water Assessment Program **Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology**

"...systematically assess and monitor the state's ground water and to disseminate the information..."

85-2-902(2) MCA

Program History

Recognizing that sound information is the key to dealing with the groundwater issues, the Legislature established the Ground Water Assessment Program in 1991. The program is designed to improve the understanding of Montana's groundwater resources by collecting, interpreting, and disseminating essential groundwater information. This information is vital for making science based management decisions.

- "Montana's citizens depend on groundwater..."
 - "groundwater supplies are threatened..."
 - "there is **insufficient information** characterizing..."
 - "**groundwater information deficiencies** are hampering..."
 - "...focus on preventing groundwater contamination...but **better ground water information is required**"
 - "there is a need for better coordination among those numerous units of state, federal, and local government..."
- (85-2-902(1) MCA)

Program Components:

- (1) **Ground Water Monitoring:** to produce and maintain long-term water-level and water-quality records,
- (2) **Ground Water Characterization:** to systematically assess and document the hydrogeology and quality of the state's major aquifers,
- (3) **Ground Water Information Center (GWIC):** to make groundwater information widely available.

Program Oversight

An interagency Steering Committee selects study areas, coordinates groundwater research among state, federal, and local government units, and oversees Assessment Program progress.

Program Funding (FY17)

\$300,000 from RIT interest (MCA 15-38-202)

\$366,000 from RIGWAT proceeds (MCA 15-38-106)

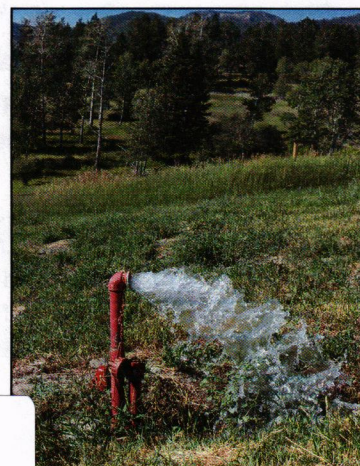
\$248,968 from the Natural Resources Operations (NRO) account

\$914,968 TOTAL HB2 Appropriation

(\$158,953) shortfall from RIT and NRO

\$756,015 TOTAL FY17 revenues

WATER POLICY INTERIM
COMMITTEE 2017-18

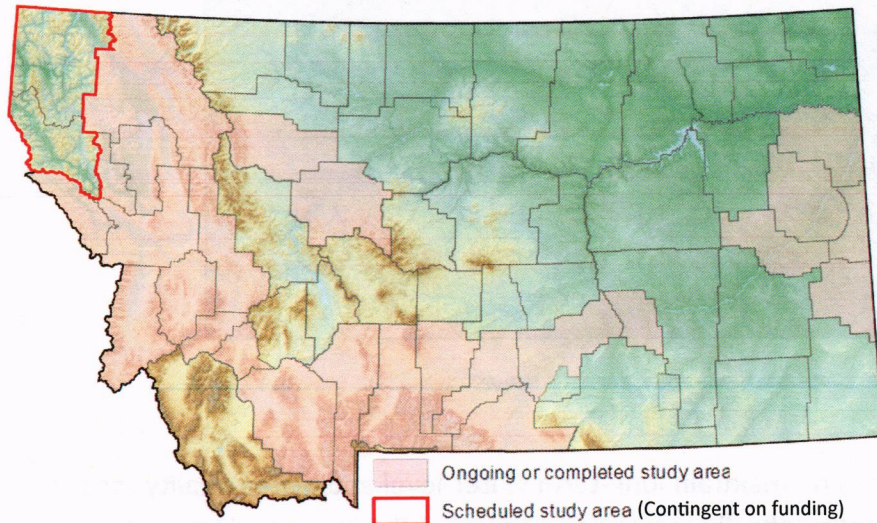
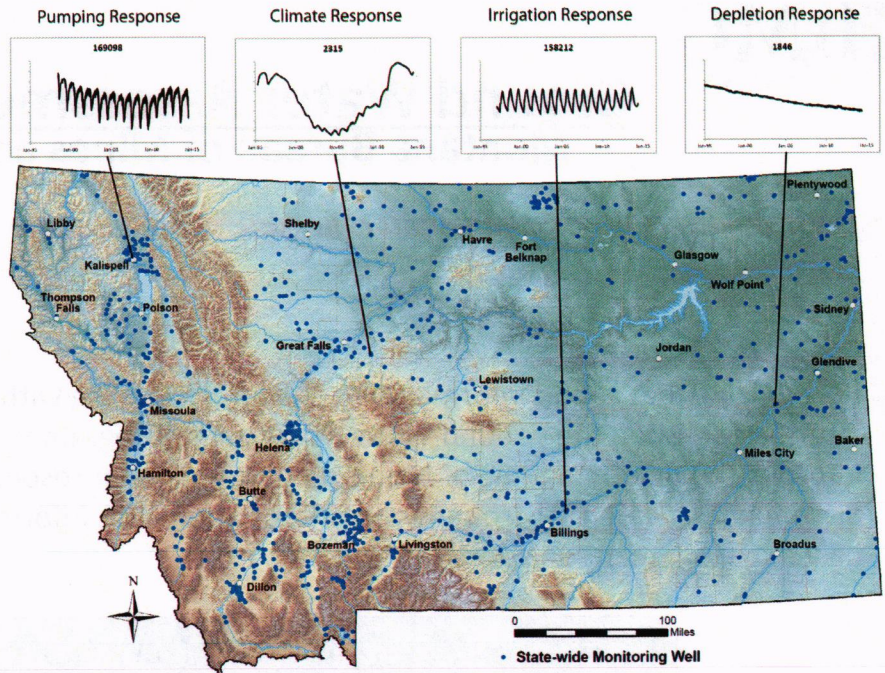


Ground Water Monitoring

- Collecting Baseline Water-Quality and Water-Level Data

Long-term data collection from 900+ strategically located wells provides the data necessary to track changes in water levels and water quality in Montana's major aquifers

All data, maps and reports are available at no charge from the GWIC database.



Characterization Program

- Compiling information on Montana's groundwater resources
 - Field work complete in 9 areas (24 counties)
 - High quality data from more than 8,300 wells
 - Groundwater samples from more than 2,500 wells
 - Released 64 maps and reports describing groundwater conditions

Ground Water Information Center - GWIC

Montana's official repository for groundwater information

- Data and other information are available online

Well logs, water-quality and water-level data, hydrographs, maps, and reports are stored in the database and can be accessed online at no charge. New capabilities include an interactive web mapping application.

